



Council Workshop Meeting Minutes August 1, 2022

Present: Mayor Jeffrey Schomisch, Vice Mayor Jeannette Ripley, Councilmembers Joe Williams, Kathleen Walker, Mike Walker, and Todd Over, Town Manager Rommel Pazmino, Chief of Police Robert Liberati. Office Assistant Jackie Villela. There is a vacant seat in Ward 3.

Call to Order

Mayor Schomisch called the August 1, 2022, Council Workshop Meeting to order at 7 p.m.

Brightview Agreement

Town Manager Rommel Pazmino briefed the Council on the addendum for the agreement with Brightview Landscape. The Town agrees to reimburse the contractor half of the money spent on the replanting. The contractor is currently looking for the correct plants. Once the plants are replanted, the Town will have to put up the display signs that explain how the Rain Garden works. Mayor Schomisch entertained a motion to approve the addendum as written. Councilman Over moved to approve the BrightView Addendum Agreement as written and Councilman Williams seconded the motion. All present voted aye and the Brightview Agreement was approved (6-0).

Noise Control

Councilman Walker presented the Council with his research on noise control regulations from three Towns nearby - Bladensburg, Edmonston, and New Carrollton. The majority had 11 p.m. as their cut off time along with a 50 ft. hearing distance. If the Town were to rewrite its code, he would like it to have a time cut off, a 50 ft. hearing distance, as well as escalating fines for warnings written in. Councilwoman Walker stated that 11 p.m. is a reasonable cut off time. Town Manager Pazmino asked if the 11 p.m. cut off time is for all seven days of the week. Councilwoman Walker responded that during the week, the cut off time should be 10 p.m. and 11 p.m. on the weekends. Chief Liberati stated that he also reviewed noise control regulations for different Towns. He found that the majority had a 50 ft. hearing distance and different cut off times for weekdays versus weekends. Additionally, he found that some Towns have different categories of fines with the lowest starting at \$250. Mayor Schomisch suggested that the Police Officers carry a paper/brochure with the new Noise Code to hand out to violators. Mayor Schomisch asked the Chief how people are able to make complaints. Chief Liberati stated that people should contact the Non-Emergency number to report complaints of loud music and parties. Mayor Schomisch requested that Councilman Walker, Councilwoman Walker and Chief Liberati come together to draft a noise ordinance.

Property at 6161 Annapolis Road

Town Code Enforcement Officer Mike Thompson briefed the Council on what is happening with the property at 6161 Annapolis Road. Mr. Aziken Smart purchased the property that was discovered to be a former cemetery. Remains were excavated and reinterred elsewhere in 2017. Mr. Smart's intention is to build a hotel with a ballroom, a storage unit, and some retail on the property. Prince George's Department of Permitting, Inspections and Enforcement (DPIE) and Parks and Planning have no records of Mr. Smart applying for permits for this property. The archeologists who excavated the bodies in 2017 stated that there is a possibility of bodies still being on the property. Chief of Police Robert Liberati stated that there is actually a documentary series of the bodies being excavated, he will email the link to everyone. Mr. Smart decided to add asphalt and other materials on top of the land and now there is debris going into the ravine. Chief Liberati spoke to the archeologists and they are willing to come in and remove the rest of the bodies, but they will not remove all the materials that Mr. Smart put down. He needs to remove the asphalt first and then the archeologists will begin their excavation. There were no further comments. Chief Liberati is attempting to schedule a meeting with DPIE but as yet has not received a reply from the County.

Grant Writer

Town Manager Rommel Pazmino briefed the Council on contracting a grant writer. He will be meeting with the Public Works Director of Cottage City to explore getting a grant writer for the Town. This person would be like a consultant and will get paid with American Rescue Plan Act Funds.

MML Fall Conference

Mayor Schomisch briefed the Council on the upcoming Maryland Municipal League (MML) Conference that will take place October 9-11. The early bird registration begins September 14, 2022. He would like to send all registrations together. There were no questions or comments.

Other

Councilman Williams would like for the Public Works Department to receive a garage where they can store their equipment and vehicles. Vice Mayor Ripley stated that the Public Works Department needs to provide size, dimensions, and price for the garage and present it to the Council. Town Manager Rommel Pazmino stated that he will be speaking to the Public Works Department supervisor to find out exactly what they need. There were no further comments.

Adjournment

The Mayor entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilman Williams moved to adjourn the meeting and Councilman Over seconded. All present voted aye and the meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.